



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**NICOLE PARRA**  
Representing the 30th Assembly District



## Parra Notes

January 06, 2006

Hello Friends:

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. I returned to Sacramento this week for the start of our new legislative session. There is a lot of work that needs to be done, but I'm excited about the new year. On that note, it's important to be aware of the new state laws that have taken effect this year. Some of those laws are as follows:

### Justice

- **Senate Bill 1028** - Prohibits killing birds or mammals via a controversial Internet technology linking a computer mouse to a camera and rifle.
- **Senate Bill 355** - Bans Internet "phishing," which is posing as a legitimate company in an e-mail to trick people into revealing personal information.
- **Assembly Bill 1474** - Bans new teenage drivers in their first year of driving from driving between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless accompanied by an adult - 25 or older - or traveling to school, work or a medical appointment.

### Education

- **Senate Bills 12 and 965** - Restricts soda sales and implements nutrition standards for food served in public elementary and secondary schools.
- **Senate Bill 724** - Allows the California State University system to grant doctoral degrees in education.
- **Senate Bill 70** - Appropriates \$20 million to improve vocational education opportunities for high school and community college students.

### Environment

- **Senate Bill 771** - Extends to oceangoing ships various sewage and other discharge restrictions that apply to cruise ships in state waters.
- **Assembly Bill 1125** - Requires sellers of rechargeable batteries to provide by July 1 a system for recycling them.
- **Assembly Bill 405** - Restricts the use of experimental pesticides on school campuses.

### Consumers

- **Senate Bill 484** - Requires cosmetics manufacturers to disclose to state health officials any cancer-causing chemicals in their products.
- **Assembly Bill 178** - Permits only fire-safe cigarettes, which extinguish by themselves, to be sold in California after Jan. 1, 2007.
- **Assembly Bill 68** - Changes the process on July 1 for buying used vehicles. Defines a "certified" vehicle, and requires buyers to be informed of their credit score and given a chance to purchase a contract cancellation option.

### Health/Medicine

- **Senate Bill 37** - Bans high school athletes from using dietary supplements, including the weight loss stimulant synephrine.
- **Senate Bill 798** - Allows counties to create a system for redistributing prescription drugs donated by manufacturers or pharmacists.
- **Assembly Bill 356** - Requires health plans and health insurers to disclose the specific reason for denying coverage to a consumer.

### Business

- **Senate Bill 97** - Makes it a misdemeanor to send spam e-mail containing false or misleading information.
- **Senate Bill 1018** - Requires officers and employees of banks and credit unions to report suspected financial abuse of elderly or dependent adults, beginning Jan. 1, 2007.
- **Senate Bill 644** - Requires pharmacies to set policies so consumers can purchase emergency contraception or other lawful prescriptions.

### Civil Rights

- **Assembly Bill 381** - Expands privacy protections by increasing penalties on paparazzi who commit assault in order to record their victim's reaction.
- **Assembly Bill 1400** - Bans businesses from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or marital status.
- **Assembly Bill 22** - Creates civil and criminal penalties for the trafficking of human beings to obtain their labor under force, threat or duress.

### Miscellaneous

- **Assembly Bill 646** - Prohibits body piercing of a minor without parental presence or notarized consent.
- **Senate Bill 914** - Bans the sale of puppies under 8 weeks old without approval by a veterinarian.
- **Senate Bill 581** - Allows new health-club contracts to be canceled within five days, for any reason, and provides additional rights based on fees charged.

*Source: Sacramento Bee*

### STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Yesterday, **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger** addressed the state in an annual speech known as the "**State of the State Address**". During his speech, the Governor called for an ambitious 10-year plan to invest \$222 billion dollars in our aging transportation system and

other public works. Sixty-eight billion dollars of that will be financed with General Obligation (GO) bonds, which means that they would be put before the people (you the voters) over a series of elections between 2006 and 2014 for approval.

More specifically the Governor's plan calls for:

- Billions to be spent on water projects in the Central Valley and other areas
- \$1 billion in earmarks to improve Highway 99
- 140,000 classrooms modernized
- 40,00 new classrooms
- 2,000 small schools
- 1 new crime lab
- 1,200 miles of new highways
- 2 new prisons
- 101 new courts
- 1,200 miles of new highway lanes
- 600 miles of mass transit

## **OTHER HIGHLIGHTS**

### **VETERANS BUS RIDE "SAVE THE DATE"**

For those of you unable to take part in the last Veterans Bus Ride, mark your calendars because we are taking another trip on **Friday, February 10th**. Further details will follow shortly.

### **THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING SCHOLARSHIP "SAVE THE DATE"**

The Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship is available to students who are enrolled or accepted in an associate degree nursing program. Students may receive up to 8,000 to pay for tuition, required fees, books, supplies, and educational equipment costs.

For more information on applying for the Fall 2006/Spring 2007 scholarship call the Health Professionals Education Foundation at 1-800-773-1669 or visit [www.healthprofessions.ca.gov](http://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov). The application deadline for the fall 2006/spring 2007 school year scholarship is **March 24th**.

### **NEED HOMEWORK HELP?**

The California State Library has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to [www.library.ca.gov/tutor/](http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/) from your computer any time between **1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** and follow the simple setup instructions.

### **MEETING REQUESTS**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov).

## INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for internships in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at **(559) 585-7170** or by e-mail at [Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov).

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Manuel Barrera** at **(661) 334-3745** or by e-mail at [Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Manuel.Barrera@asm.ca.gov).

For Sacramento office internships contact **Michael Tamariz** at **(916) 319-2030** or by e-mail at [Michael.Tamariz@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Tamariz@asm.ca.gov).

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